

The Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic Sequestration Period on Sight Translation Female Students' Academic Performance at King Khalid University

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Abstract

Many alma maters, colleges, graduate schools, and institutes of higher education around the world postponed lecture hall teaching because of the coronavirus disease outbreak and moved on to learning and teaching online. The recent study aims at scrutinizing the effects of the covid nineteen pneumonia epidemic sequestration on the academic performance of sight translation female students at King Khalid University. Also, the study seeks to answer the following main question: has the covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) considerably impacted translation of female students' sight translation achievement?. The purposive sample of the study consisted of (47) female students of sight translation at the Dhahran al-Janoub female student campus, who attended lectures on different days and participated in the study. The main findings of the study revealed that the covid nineteen pneumonia epidemic sequestration might have both positive impacts and adverse effects on translation female students' sight translation achievement.

Keywords: academic performance, the covid nineteen, translation, effect, female students

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Introduction

The covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) was first discovered by Chinese scientists before the end of 2019 in the Chinese city of Wuhan. The coronavirus pandemic outbreaks heavily impacted internationally, regionally, and locally tertiary education. It has also momentarily changed teaching and learning processes that regularly occurred face-face before the coronavirus pandemic rapidly swung across the globe and has moved to an online mode via blackboard. Even though a plethora of global research has explored the pedagogical, educational, and social implications of university closures and online learning for university students. In a nutshell, the far-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on translation students' achievement in colleges of translation are yet unclear (Moliner, Alegre, Cabedo-Mas, & Chiva-Bartoll, 2021). When investigating these impacts, several reasons must be reflected, as university students, instructors, professors of translation, and deans of the colleges have had to acclimatize to new teaching and learning settings arising from constraints of the coronavirus pandemic outbreaks with little to no further notice.

Students of translation have had to cope with a new educational setting because of health measures that have involved, among other accommodations, online learning combined with in-person learning (mixed), groups of students of translation attending college on different days, limitations on interactions and contiguity among peers and between students and instructors limited or no study trips, and limited access to digital and traditional classroom materials. The current study intends to identify the impact of the covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) on the achievement of female translation students at the Dhahran al-Janoub female student campus.

The recent study proposes to pinpoint if the covid nineteen pneumonia epidemic significantly influences the academic performance of female students of sight translation at the Dhahran al-Janoub female student campus, King Khalid University, in Abha /Saudi Arabia, particularly those attending on different days for maintenance of health purposes, maybe most influenced by these new circumstances. Not being able to participate in college- in the second semester of the 2019–2020 academic year and attending only the first semester in person in the current academic year makes them attractive stratus of studies in the educational field, thus in this research paper, the researchers aim to determine if the covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) has had a significant impact on sight translation female students' academic performance and if it has, the researchers intend to measure the impact and explore the factors that may play an essential role in clarifying the phenomenon.

To attain the objectives defined in the study, consecutive questions were posed :

RQ1: Has the covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) considerably impacted translation of female students' sight translation achievement?

RQ2: If the covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) considerably impacted translation of female students' sight translation achievement, what factors justify this impact?

Review of Literature

Covid Nineteen Pneumonia and the World Context

Covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) is a disease caused by SARS-CoV-2. This disease was first found in late 2019, in a Chinese city named Wuhan. It is one of the more dangerous

diseases in the modern world and appertains to the broader family of (RNA) viruses, causing plagues, from influenza to more severe diseases. The main symptoms of Covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) are fever, dry cough, fatigue, myalgia, shortness of breath, and dyspnoea (Shereen et al., 2020).

In the mid of March, two thousand and twenty, the sudden increase in many international cases took the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare that the outbreak could be described as a pandemic. By then, more than a hundred and eighteen thousand cases had been announced in hundred and fourteen countries, around the world, and four thousand two hundred and ninety-one mortalities had been recorded (Phan et al., 2020).

By the end of March, two thousand and twenty, the World Health Organization of the European Region had become the focal point of the epidemic, reporting over forty percent of international affirmed cases of Covid 19 on April twenty-eighth, two thousand and twenty are sixty-three percent (Bai, et al., 2020, Tang, et al., 2020). Covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) is described by fast transmission and can happen by intimate contact with an ill individual. The details of the illness are developing. Covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) has disseminated speedily from a Chinese city called Wuhan to other parts of the regions around the world, endangering the lives of many people.

Before the end of January two thousand and twenty, the WHO reported health emergencies in the global community and called for combined efforts from all over the world to preclude its rapid dissemination. Subsequently, the World Health Organization announced COVID-19 as " a global pandemic disease".

Covid Nineteen Pneumonia and the Saudi Context

After the World Health Organization (WHO) announcement, countries worldwide, together with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have been reponing and preparing plans to bring the situation under control. Since its verification first case of COVID19, on Monday second of March, two thousand and twenty the Saudi ministry of health has been cautiously and observantly checking the situation and increasing country-specific actions that are in harmony with the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO) in connection with the outbreak of Covid nineteen pneumonia Covid 19. (Arab N, 2020; Maghrabi, 2022,).

Also, in Saudi Arabia, Covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) has dramatically changed people's routines. These comprise hanging all domestic, return, and, international flights, shutting all markets and the Kingdom, excluding drugstores and, supermarkets, and shutting down kindergartens, elementary and intermediate schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, and educational centers. These educational organizations had to shut and substitute all in-person learning and teaching, with learning online until the following (2020–2021) Academic year. Entry visas have been pending, as have prayers at mosques, as well as the two Holy Mosques in Mekkah and Almadina. The Covid 19 impacted university students educationally and socially. It was unparalleled worldwide in the educational area of students in more than a hundred and thirty countries to be out of school or university at the same time, making contradictory feelings of

possibly sorrow, worry, disturbance, or anxiety about their future but also unequivocally in times of doubtfulness (Zitoun,2020).

Previous Studies

There are rare and scarce studies exploring the impact of the covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) pandemic outbreak on university students' academic achievement in general and translation achievement in particular. Hence, the current study is a single and unique study that investigates the impact of the covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) pandemic outbreak on university translation female students' sight translation achievement.

Gonzalez et al. (2020) studied the impact of coronavirus pneumonia on students' performance in tertiary education. The study targets to probe the effect of coronavirus pneumonia sequestration on Spanish students' performance in tertiary education. The study revealed that coronavirus pneumonia sequestration changed students' learning strategies to an extra, constant habit enhancing their performance. Moussa, et al. (2022) conducted a study entitled "exploring the relationship between students' academic success and happiness levels in the higher education settings during the lockdown period of COVID-19". The study aimed to measure the level of happiness among higher education students and its relationship with their academic success during the lockdown period of COVID—19. The study revealed that higher education students in the UAE have high levels of happiness and academic success; the students' happiness levels were found to be correlated to their academic success.

Alemany-Arrebola, Rojas-Ruiz, Granda-Vera, and Mingorance-Estrada(2020) have carried out a study on the effect of COVID-19 on the cognizance of personal academic efficacy, state of distress, and tendency to feel anxious among university students. The study seeks to investigate the connection between perceived personal effectiveness and usefulness during the Covid nineteen pneumonia epidemic sequestration period and the level of state of stress and tendency to feel anxious during coronavirus sickness. The findings of the study showed that there was a contrariwise proportionate relationship between anxiety and personal efficacy. Male students indicated the highest perception of personal effectiveness, while female students had higher scores in the state of distress, and a tendency to feel anxious; the latter was highlighted in cases when a near relative or far relative passed away.

Aguilera-Hermida (2020) undertook a study on undergraduate students' utilization and consent of emergency studying online because of novel coronavirus illness. The study examines university students' views of their acceptance, usage, and adoption of emergency checking online. The findings showed how, perspective, motivation, encouragement, self-motivation, personal efficacy, and utilization of innovative technology played a more significant role in the cognitive commitment and educational achievements of students.

Al-Marroof, Salloum, Hassanien, and Shaalan(2020) completed a study about anxiety from coronavirus sickness lockdown and adaptation of technologies: the influence of Google Meet during coronavirus outbreak. The study explored the effect of stress and pressure on students' and teachers' adaptation to technology during the coronavirus pandemic. The results revealed that both data analysis techniques have successfully provided support to all the hypothetical and assumed

relationships of the research model. Alqahtani (2022) conducted a study that examined Saudi female students' awareness of word-formation procedures about the terminology of unknown coronavirus. The study attempts to study the acquisition of word-formation procedures appertaining to the terms of novel coronavirus pneumonia. The results revealed that the percentages of wrong or incorrect answers were higher than true ones, thus proposing that the students were not conversant with word-formation processes. The findings showed comparable results in words shaped through combining and commingling, signifying they failed to distinguish between the two methods.

Alwazna,(2021) had undertaken a study on teaching translation during a coronavirus pandemic. The study focuses on translation teaching during the coronavirus pandemic and tries to find the challenges translation instructors meet in distance learning and the solutions obtainable to untangle them. The data indicated that 40% of the participants evaluated their networked translation teaching encounter during the coronavirus pandemic as congenial. On the contrary, no participant has assessed their networked translation teaching experience as unsatisfactory. About 23.33% of the participants judge their networked translation teaching experience as very good, and the same percentage applies to those who evaluate their networked translation teaching experience as good to a certain extent.

Alghamdi (2021) studied the impact of coronavirus disease on the social measurement and educational aspects of Saudi university students' academia. The study investigated the effect of coronavirus disease on the social extent and size, and academic elements of Saudi university students' lives. The results displayed high to lower levels of agreement concerning Saudi university students' perceptions of the positive and negative influence of the coronavirus pandemic in their lives, with social elements influenced more than educational, and intecullaul ones; and no statistically significant sex differences. Moliner et al. (2022) carried out a study on the coronavirus pandemic's impact on 9th-grade pupils' mathematics achievement". The study purposed to scrutinize the effect of the covid nineteen epidemic on 9th-grade pupils' mathematics achievement. The findings of the study revealed that the coronavirus pandemic might be considerably and negatively impacting 9th-grade pupils' mathematics achievement. Moreover, it has been suggested in previous studies that student academic achievement might diminish or enhance considering, the educational shifts and the psychological factors connected with the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic that has impacted students.

To conclude, the aforementioned previous studies discussed the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on the educational achievement of college students during the epidemic confinement. But in this study, the researchers want to explore the impact of the covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) pandemic confinement on female translation students of sight translation performance. This study was conducted at the Department of English, Dhahran al-Janoub female students' campus, King Khalid University, Abha /Saudi Arabia, during the second term of the academic 2020/2021.

Methods

Study Design

A quantitative approach is employed by the two researchers for probing the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on sight translation female students' academic performance at King Khalid University. The quasi-experimental approach is used following both pre-and post-test groups for evaluating the female students' sight translation performance.

Participants

About forty-seven translation female students of sight translation at the Department of the English, Dhahran al-Janoub female students' campus, King Khalid University, were randomly selected and assigned to one control group and one experimental group. These students enrolled for the sight translation course during the 2019–2020 academic year served as the control group. These students attended the first semester of the 2019–2020 Academic year (August to December) regularly; the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aligned with the launch of the second term. Therefore, only sight translation female students' translation achievement for the first semester (before the start of the epidemic) was analyzed. Students enrolled in level 6 in the semester (2020–2021) academic year—that is, those enrolled in level six during the COVID-19 pandemic—served as the experimental group. The sight translation professors recorded the daily lectures, uploaded them to the blackboard as synchronous and non-synchronous lectures, and shared a private link via email with students. Hence, the content was immediately available to them on the days they did not attend class in person. They could watch the course live or view it later that day, as the session was recorded and permanently available to students. It was the students' duty to share files, videos, and surveys, (AlKarani, et al., 2020) and watch the lectures on the blackboard on the days they did not attend college in person.

Study Variables

The independent variable included in this study was synchronous and non-synchronous lectures and in-person sight translation classes. The dependent variable included in this study comprised the sight translation achievement of translation students at king Khalid university.

Research Instrument

The sight translation test was carried out to assess the translation performance of the female students. This includes the mean score of the students and individual scores. The test was comparable with a performance test where the female students were asked to render the given text into English and vice versa.

Data Analysis

The same professor of sight translation who taught the batch of female students of sight translation in the control group, in 2019–2020 also taught the same female students of sight translation in the experimental group in 2020–2021. Female students of sight translation in the control group were taught regularly. They took in-person sight translation classes three times per week. Traditional unidirectional instruction was combined with peer tutoring for some weeks for this group (Moliner & Alegre, 2022). Female students of sight translation in the experimental group attended a sight translation class on a different day. Therefore, each week, of the three sight translation lessons that would usually be provided to them in person, two were accessed via the blackboard (on the days the translation students stayed home and the other group attended in

person). During the classes of the experimental group, traditional unidirectional instruction was employed. The female Students of sight translation sat individually separated by two meters on account of interpersonal distance measures. Translation female students' sight translation performance was evaluated by dint of individual written sight translation tests. Students in the experimental and control groups took the same test of rendering a text from English/Arabic/English at the end of the first semester. The sight translation test was graded from 0 to 20, and each student's score for this test was used to represent their sight translation achievement.

Results

Data Analysis SPSS version 27 was utilized by the two researchers to carry out all assessments for the quantitative data, that is, for the female students' sight translation achievement variable. Means and standard deviations were reported using this software. Moreover, inferential statistics were performed to compare the sight translation achievement of the experimental and control groups. The sight translation student's test was used for these analyses.

Table 1: *scores of the control group and the experimental group*

Group type	Number	Mean	Std. dev	T-test	Sig
Control	18	1.50	8.30	2.90	
Experimental	29	6.50	2.65	2.60	(p < .01)

As can be seen in the table with the unassisted eye, the scores for the control group of sight translation students (before the Covid Nineteen Pneumonia (Covid 19) Pandemic Confinement) were considerably more than the scores for the experimental group of sight translation female students (during the Covid Nineteen Pneumonia (Covid 19) pandemic confinement) in all cases.

Discussions

To answer research question 1: Has the covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) considerably impacted translation female students' sight translation performance?, it appears the covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) pandemic confinement has had an important impact on translation students' sight translation achievement at King Khalid University. As stated in the introduction of the current paper, the literature on this subject is still rare. Still, some recent studies have already indicated findings similar to the results of this research paper. Even though not particularly in the field of translation in general and sight translation in particular, the considerable decrease in students' academic achievement during the COVID-19 pandemic has also been reported by some researchers such as Moliner, et al., (2022), Alghamdi (2021), Alwazna, (2021) and Gonzalez, et al. (2020). Consequently, the reduction in students' sight translation achievement found in the current paper study is too similar to studies in teaching and learning in general and translation teaching and learning in particular.

To answer research question 2: If the covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) considerably impacted translation students' sight translation performance, what factors justify this impact? The key factors that can clarify the effect that the Covid Nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) pandemic confinement has had on translation students' sight translation achievement are changes in educational environments, students' low motivation, humdrum, and students' degree of

accountability. Finally, the current research showed that psychological factors play a significant role, either directly or indirectly, in students' academic achievement.

Conclusion

The significant finding that can be excluded from this study is that the covid nineteen pneumonia (Covid 19) pandemic may be having a considerable and negative impact on translation students' sight translation achievement. The dimension of that impact may be average to high. Institutional alterations in the educational context, absence of motivation outside the university of college, humdrum, and students' absence of accountability may be caused that justify this phenomenon. The SPSS analysis showed the negative influence of the coronavirus sickness epidemic on translation female students' sight translation achievement. A posttest only with a control group design was employed by the researchers to compare the sight translation scores of translation students from the previous academic year (before the pandemic, control group) and the current academic year (during the pandemic, experimental group). Forty-seven female students of sight translation at the Department of the English, Dhahran al-Janoub female students' campus, attending lectures on different days, took part in the study. The main findings of the study revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic might be significantly and negatively impacting translation female students' sight translation achievement.

Implications of the Current Study


Despite the fact that this study was carried out in Abha, King Khalid University, Aseer Region, Southern Saudi Arabia, which had a lot of novel coronavirus disease cases the same as other regions in Saudi Arabia, and the most prolonged period of blackouts through the covid-19 outbreak, the findings may be identical to global researches that proposed some positive effects closely related to the novel coronavirus infection pandemic. It emphasizes the demand for continuous research to identify how different academic communities can build on the positive aspects of students that have popped out to answer these novel virus outbreaks. These positive effects showed the pivotal role played by information and communications technologies and internet technology in minimizing the adverse effects throughout the period of the corona pandemic. They have opened up a world of learning and teaching and offered opportunities for teachers, and learners, giving them a chance to communicate, collaborate and create. However, these findings showed a pressing need for technologies to be evolved to make sure they are in harmony with what users expect and require in their social and academic lives through turning points or crises.


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